

nominations and won a Bronze Telly Award and the highest viewership of a televised program produced by Educational Television.

Dr. Rivers led the planning and execution of the National Conference on Health Disparities for nearly two decades, which provided a national dialogue to share progress in building healthy communities from 2007 through 2021. He also organized and led the Environmental Justice Braintrust at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.'s Annual Legislative Conference. The Braintrust recommended strategies to help policy makers address environmental issues by fostering a relationship between environmental protection, human health, environmental justice, and economic development.

In 2009, Dr. Rivers became the first African American to hold a citywide elected office in Charleston, SC. He served as a Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Charleston since 2009, where he also served as Vice Chairman and Chairman. He was re-elected unopposed in 2015 and 2021.

Dr. Rivers served as Chairman of the National Urban Fellows and the James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation boards. He was President of the Jonathan Green Foundation, and he was Vice Chairman of the Sea Island Comprehensive Health Care Corporation. He was a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, American Water Works Association, and Water Environment Federation.

He also served on the Boards of the South Carolina Aquarium, My Brother's Keeper, and the 100 Black Men of Charleston, SC. He was also a member of the National Council of La Raza, California State University Center for Latino Community Health in Monterey Bay, California; Allen University Board of Trustees; the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's 21st Century Council, Executive Committee; the Advisory Board of Charleston's First Reliance Bank, and the Trident Urban League. He also served as a Board Member of Trident Urban League, the Community Foundation, and the Charleston Regional Development Alliance.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. David Rivers. His impact can be felt across this country in so many communities that are addressing environmental justice and health disparities, and his work will continue through the initiatives he developed and nurtured throughout his career. Dr. Rivers led a life of purpose driven by passion. May he rest in power.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF SHERIFF BARRY VIRTS

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Sheriff Barry Virts, who retired December 31, 2021 after 44 years with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. A dedicated public servant, Sheriff Virts demonstrated a profound commitment to public safety throughout his career.

Sheriff Virts is a lifelong resident of the Town of Rose in Wayne County, New York and graduate of North Rose-Wolcott High School. He earned an Associate's degree from Erie Community College and began his career in law enforcement in 1977 as a corrections officer for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Virts was quickly promoted to road patrol deputy a year later, sergeant in 1985, and criminal investigations lieutenant in 1988. In 1999, he began overseeing the Wayne County jail as Chief Deputy.

Following ten years with the jail division, in 2009 Sheriff Virts was elected Sheriff of Wayne County. At the outset of his term, Sheriff Virts placed a significant emphasis on improving support for victims and collaboration between various police departments. For his work, Sheriff Virts has received local honors and served on over thirteen community and advisory boards including the Wayne County Criminal Justice Council, Wayne County Jail Advisory, Victim Resource Center, Wayne County Diversity Task Force, Wayne County Pretrial Youth and Adult Diversion. He also served on the Council on Alcoholism & Other Addictions, Wayne County Fire Chief's Association, and the Wayne County Housing Consortium.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the career of Sheriff Barry Virts and his commitment to public safety. I wish Sheriff Virts the best in his retirement.

REMEMBERING CHESTER ALAN BARTOL

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Chester "Chet" Bartol of Fort Wayne who passed away last month.

Chet was a hard-working, intelligent man who served our country and his community with joy. He graduated Warsaw High School in 1945 and attended Purdue University, where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. For nearly fifty years, he worked in orthopedics as a distributor and was the owner of Zimmer-Bartol Associates.

In addition to his academic and career pedigree, Chet was a veteran of the United States Army, having served in the Electrical Warfare Division of the Signal Corps. Northeast Indiana, and our country, is grateful to him for his service.

He is remembered as having been particularly active, sociable and selfless. A lifelong fan of Purdue sports, Chet ran high school and college track, and into old age remained a golfer and avid cardplayer. He is also remembered as having been a loving husband, father and friend. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, five children, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In the wake of his passing, I wish Chet's family peace, comfort and joy in knowing he lived a long and happy life. Though he is no longer alive, his spirit lives on in the minds and souls of those whom he knew and loved most.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JOHN BREHM

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of Scotts Bluff County Veteran's Service Officer John Brehm. For nearly 50 years John has devoted his life to honoring and meeting the needs of American veterans and their families. Prior to this John served for three years in the United States Army, stationed near the 38th parallel in South Korea as well as Fort Carson, CO. His recent retirement marks a legacy of faithful service to others who sacrificed for our nation.

Despite his reluctance to assume credit for himself, the significance of John's impact is widely recognized. His accomplishments include restoring annual commencement of the local Veterans Day parade, partnering with the American Legion to organize County Government Day visits for high school students, and spearheading the establishment of Avenue of Flags displays as well as Veterans Memorial Park which now bears his name in my own hometown of Gering.

John has showed personal concern for each veteran he served, knowing full well the importance of going the extra mile. In addition to facilitating disability claims, his efforts fundraising for Disabled American Veterans vans have meant a great deal to veterans in need of transportation to health facilities in our sprawling, rural region.

John Brehm's dedication and patriotism are rare. His expertise will be missed, but we are grateful for his ongoing engagement as a citizen. Countless Nebraskans have been blessed by his care, and generations to come are indebted to his example.